



Press Release

Press Release Announcement - September 16, 2002 - For Immediate Use

Pennsylvania's September Yield Forecast

HARRISBURG—Based on crop conditions as of September 1, estimates of **Pennsylvania's** 2002 production of corn for grain, soybeans, and seedleaf tobacco are expected to be below the levels of a year ago. Production of Maryland-type tobacco is expected to be above last year according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn for grain yield was estimated at 72 bushels per acre, down 18 bushels from the August 1 forecast and down 26 bushels from last year. With acreage for harvest currently estimated at 950,000, the resulting production is expected to be 68.4 million bushels, down 29.5 percent from a year ago.

Soybean yield was estimated at 28 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from the August 1 forecast and 7 bushels below last year. With acreage for harvest currently estimated at 380,000, the resulting production is expected to be 10.64 million bushels, down 25 percent from last year.

Maryland-type tobacco yield was estimated at 1,850 pounds per acre, down 10 pounds from a year ago. With acreage for harvest estimated at 1,300, the resulting production of 2,405,000 pounds will be 17.5 percent above last year. Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco yield was estimated at 1,950 pounds per acre. With acreage for harvest estimated at 2,100 acres, the resulting production of 4,095,000 pounds was just slightly below last year's production of 4,120,000 pounds.

At the **United States** level, corn production is forecast at 8.85 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from last month and down 7 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 125.4 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from August, but down 12.8 bushels from last year. If realized, both the yield and production would be at their lowest levels since 1995. Yields are lower than last month across much of the Corn Belt and along the Atlantic Coastal Plains as hot and dry conditions persist. However, yields are up in the northern Corn Belt, northern Great Plains, and southern Great Plains where total precipitation for the month was above normal. Farmers expect to harvest 70.5 million acres of corn for grain, down 460,000 acres from August but up 3 percent from 2001.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.66 billion bushels, up 1 percent from August but 8 percent below 2001. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 37.0 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushels from last month. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1999. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 71.8 million acres, down slightly from August and 2 percent below last year. Area expected for harvest was decreased by 230,000 acres in four states due to abandonment. The states with the largest acreage reductions are Kansas and Nebraska. Downward adjustments to harvested acres were also made in North Carolina and South Dakota. Yield prospects improved in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and across the northern Corn Belt due to mild temperatures and adequate moisture supplies. Yield prospects declined along the Ohio Valley and Atlantic Coast states due to above normal temperatures.